



Recd. May 2/63



Samuel May Jr
221 Washington St.
Boston
Mass.

MS. B. 1.6 v. 9, p. 91

Salem Apr 24th / 63

Samuel May Jr

Dear Friend; I reply
in answer to your inquiries, that
I know of nothing in Mr Pillsbury's
social intercourse with any person here in
the west or elsewhere which should in
any manner ^{compromise} his good name or his
moral character. On the contrary, he ~~seemed~~
seemed to me, in prosecuting his holy
mission to ^{have} been governed by the prudent,
apostolic maxim - "Avoid the appearance
of evil." I repeat - I know of nothing of
the character you refer to, that should more
disturb you or other friends of the anti-sl. cause
than any of the other numberless, baseless
slanders that have crowded the air, in
reference to every one whose life, in this
contest, has been a blessing to the slave
& to humanity.

Mr Griffing has in conversation with different persons in this part of the country, charged Mr Pillsbury & others with most scandalous & wicked transactions. But I have no evidence of their truth, except his statements & do not believe them. It is a part of his systematic "punishment" - to use his own language of such persons as he imagines have wronged him by their course in regard to the unhappy difference between himself & Mrs Griffing. It seems to me that he regards all the old intimate friends of the family as guilty of this wrong, who are not his persecutors. Months since he threatened to make statements to the Com. at Boston which should be to the detriment of Mr Pillsbury, our lamented friend B. S. Jones & others. His object, as he stated, was to prevent the employment of Mrs Griffing ^{as an agent}.

& to embarrass such friends as he
thought influential in favoring such
a measure, as well as to "punish"
them for past offences of the same sort.
He pretends to attribute Mrs Griffings
alienation to this cause.

I sincerely hope your confidence in
Mr P. is not in the least shaken by
any thing you have received from Mr
Griffing. He may have made out a plau-
sible case. probably he ~~has~~ ^{was} if he under-
took it, for he is possessed of great tact
I think he could not well tell of worse
things than those he has charged Mr
P. & S. S. Jones with to me, but
never for a moment did I give his
statements the least credence
because I knew the narrator his habits
& it's a morbid state of mind. I knew
of nothing to corroborate his statements
& the life long character of the man he as-
sailed was a shield of adamant from
which these envenomed shafts fell harmless

Your kind sympathy with
my dear wife & myself is most grate-
ful. But you cannot know, my dear friend
how terrible a thing it is to have
at once cut off all the motives of
action, all the hopes & all the responsi-
bilities of the parental relation. It
is a death itself; so that we seem to be
no more of the world while yet
moving in it. The connecting link
with the new generations is gone
& our loneliness is that of the grave
which we seem to have entered
while we walk above it.

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It would give me great pleasure
to meet with the friends at the coming
anniversaries. But is a pleasure I must
forgo. I trust the meetings may be, as I
doubt not they will, of eminent
service to the cause of righteousness
& humanity.

With kind regards to yourself &
your co-workers of my acquaintance
Yours truly W. R. Robinson